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Weekly Summary

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December 17, 1976

The WEEKLY SUMMARY, issued every Friday morning by the Directorate of Current Intelligence, reports and analyzes significant developments of the week through noon on Thursday. It is prepared by the National Foreign Assessment Center and is produced by the Office of Economic Research, the Office of Strategic Research, the Office of Geographic and Cartographic Research, and the Directorate of Science and Technology.

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7 **Western Hemisphere**

[redacted] Argentina NR

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Comments and queries on the contents of this publication are welcome. They may be directed to the editor of the Weekly, [redacted]

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ARGENTINA 63-66

The navy and air force members of Argentina's three-man military junta are expressing increased dissatisfaction with what they view as inordinate army influence in the regime. Admiral Massera in particular is indulging even more than usual his penchant for sniping at President Videla, commander in chief of the army.

Massera and his air force counterpart, General Agosti, are generally identified with the so-called hard-line current of opinion, which favors harsh national security measures and opposes early conciliatory gestures toward civilian groups.

In the past week or so, Massera has directed thinly veiled public criticism at the President and his chief ally, army chief of staff General Viola.

Massera may see some possibility that by discrediting Videla, he himself could emerge as president, a job he covets.

Chances are slim that Massera can, in the near future, engineer Videla's departure; it is even less likely that he could become president himself. The army is well established as the predominant service, and there is little evidence of active plotting within the army against the President.

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Members of the junta (l to r) Admiral Massera, President Videla, General Agosti

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